

Short Term Assignment

Geographic Information Systems Training

Specialist

Republic of the Maldives

Fall/Winter 2013

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking a candidate with a strong Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training background for a one to one and a half week technical assistance workshop assignment in the Maldives. The ideal candidate has extensive professional experience in the full spectrum of using GIS for protected areas and has experience in providing relevant training. This workshop is a follow up to a previous ITAP activity in the Maldives that, among other things, identified GIS capacity building as a top priority. The general goal of this assignment is to develop a cadre of local GIS trainers and increase the use and efficiency of GIS technology in the Maldives system of protected areas.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating across the globe with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. DOI-ITAP has managed short- and long-term multi-partner projects in over 50 countries since 1995.

Using U. S. Department of State Economic Support Funds (ESF) DOI-TAP proposes to establish a technical assistance program in the Republic of the Maldives. This program will build capacity for innovative approaches to the adaptive management of the country's coral reefs in the face of climate change and other threats. DOI-ITAP will develop this program in partnership with the Maldives Marine Research Center (MRC), an entity of the Maldives Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. Under the proposed initiative, DOI-ITAP will analyze the needs and opportunities in the Maldives through a series of workshops, provide targeted technical assistance and training in priority areas including coral reef monitoring and marine law enforcement, and assist in the development of a national marine resources training center.

The Republic of the Maldives, situated in the Indian Ocean, south-southwest of India, is the smallest Asian country in terms of both land area and population. The Maldives includes 1,190 coral islands grouped into 26 atolls -- a total of 298 sq km of land base and 644 km of coastline. Two hundred of the islands are inhabited and, of those, 80 include tourist resorts. In terms of elevation, the Maldives is the lowest country on earth, with the highest elevation point being around 2.4 m. The country's capital and largest city is Male (population 100,000), situated on the southern edge of North Male Atoll. Tourism and fishing are major factors in the country's economy.

ASSIGNMENT: In a follow up to previous activities in the Maldives, ITAP is seeking one GIS trainer to provide “train the trainer” training for Maldives protected area staff. The DOI specialist will be joined by another DOI non-GIS specialist whom has worked on a previous ITAP Maldives assignment. The DOI specialists will be responsible for training select Maldivian staff to enhance their proficiency in GIS, as well as providing them with the skills to train other staff in the agency. Additionally the DOI specialist may provide assistance in refining the existing GIS system for the Maldives Environmental Protection Agency, the primary local agency responsible for protected areas management. The technical assistance workshop will be conducted in the Maldives capital Malé. The specific location within the capital is TBD.

SCHEDULE: Although the exact mission date is TBD, this assignment is expected to take place in fall or winter of 2013 and will cover a one to one and a half week period in-country. Specific mission dates will be determined by team members and in-country partners at a later date. The technical assistance workshop will take place in Malé, the capital of the Republic of Maldives.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP and/or our in-country counterpart. Background material and briefings will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with DOI-ITAP project managers and U.S. Embassy staff on the preparation and follow-up over phone and email to discuss technical aspects of the project. The successful candidate can expect to devote a number of hours to pre-trip planning and post-trip wrap up activities.

Within three weeks of the completion of the trip, the individual will provide the DOI-ITAP managers a brief draft trip report of the trip events, including evaluations made and recommendations for future actions, and any other mission related work products NPS travelers will also submit this report to their Office of International Affairs.

COSTS: DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, medical insurance, immunizations, per diem, etc.). The **salaries of the team members, however, will be paid by their employing DOI agency** for the duration of the international assignment, including pre- and post-trip obligation. Stipends, or other forms of compensation, are **NOT** available for retiree candidates. Please note that travel expenses will **NOT** count against Bureau travel ceilings.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Have extensive professional experience in the full spectrum of using GIS for protected areas;
- Have demonstrated professional experience delivering training in GIS to audiences with varying levels of familiarity with the subject;
- Have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups;
- Previous international experience is desirable, but not required.

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness for duty.

If you are selected for this assignment you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate in this program, as well as additional approvals up your supervisory chain of command as necessary (see below).

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment must:

- Send a resume and cover letter summarizing direct, relevant work experience, related to the skills listed under application requirements. Please submit electronically to Marc Weitzel, DOI-ITAP Senior Advisor (808/671-9746, marc_weitzel@ios.doi.gov), and Colleen Castle (202-208-5160, colleen_castle@ios.doi.gov) with the subject: "Application Maldives GIS Specialist Trainer"
 - Cover letter and resume should be send as one document (preferably a PDF) with the file name "FULL NAME_BUREAU_JOB TITLE"
- If your supervisor has already given approval, please indicate this.
- All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than August 9th, 2013. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Any and all questions can be directed to the contact information above for Marc Weitzel.

All NPS applicants should copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov) in the NPS Office of International Affairs. All NPS applicants must have the approval to apply from their Associate Director or Regional Director. *ADs/RDs fully encourage qualified NPS staff to apply; securing the approval of the ADs/RDs before applying is intended to ensure that supervisory chains are aware of the potential for ITAP engagement.*

All BLM applicants should copy their applications to Olivia Sierra (osierra@blm.gov) in the BLM Office of International Affairs. BLM applicants **must** have the approval of their immediate supervisor to apply.

Employees of the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement** are **required** to have **supervisory approval** prior to submitting an application.

Please note that ITAP travel does not require the use of a field office credit card and travel will not count towards 'travel caps'.

Application Process

The entire selection process may take several weeks. A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone, email or letter. **The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements. If applicants do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of their application, please inquire with the Project Managers listed above.**